TAB 8

TOWN OF LAKE PARK

MEMO

To:

Mayor and Town Commission

From:

Doug Drymon, Town Manager

Date:

September 8, 2003

Subject:

Community Development Department

The Town Commission directed that staff prepare a budget for the Community Development Department for FY 2003-2004 reflecting a total expenditure cap of \$500,00.00, and exploring the possibility of having all planning and zoning-related tasks assumed by the Town's planning consultants, Calvin-Giordano. Following numerous discussions with John Downs, a Senior Principal at Calvin-Giordano, I have assembled the following cost figures with the assistance of Cindy Sementelli, Town Finance Director.

The attached 2-page spread sheet outlines four possible options for the Community Development Department. (A fifth option, leaving the organization of the department essentially "as is," was not considered, as in my opinion the department lacks the necessary level of day-to-day supervision that is required to function properly.) Each of the four proposed options presented assumes the following:

- The Town will continue to contract with Hy-Byrd for Building Inspection services (at an annual cost of \$100,000.00).
- The Town will continue to fund one full-time Code Enforcement Officer position, and will also increase funding in the Code Enforcement Office during FY 2003-2004 to allow for one FTE secretarial position (as opposed to the part-time secretarial position that is currently being funded).
- The collection of fees and issuance of occupational licenses will be handled by the Finance Office staff (this requires full-staffing of Finance Office, which currently has one vacant position).

Option One anticipates continuing to use the existing Community Development staff, and hiring one full-time Senior Planner/Director to oversee and direct the activities of the entire Community Development Department (including Building Inspection and Code Enforcement functions). The staffing level of the Planning & Zoning function would be three Town employees. The cost to fund this option is projected to be \$440,547.00. This amount leaves \$59,453 in excess funds from the \$500,000 "cap" which could be applied towards reorganizing the Community Development Department (Task I outlined in the attached proposal submitted by Calvin-Giordano), and/or updating the Town's Comprehensive Plan using Calvin-Giordano staff.

Option Two anticipates continuing to use the existing Community Development staff, and contracting with Calvin-Giordano to provide one full-time Staff person (as opposed to the present 20-hours of staff time) who will also be given responsibility to oversee and direct the activities of the entire Community Development Department. The staffing level of the Planning & Zoning function would be two Town employees plus one contracted employee. The cost to fund this option is projected to be \$436,195.00. This amount leaves \$63,805 in excess funds from the \$500,000 "cap" which could be applied towards reorganizing the Community Development Department, and/or updating the Town's Comprehensive Plan using Calvin-Giordano staff.

Option Three anticipates staffing the Planning and Zoning section of the Community Development Office with one (1) full-time Senior Planner/Director position, and one (1) full-time Junior Planner position ONLY. Both of these positions would be staffed by Town employees. Additionally, under this option \$60,000 is being budgeted to use the services of Calvin-Giordano on a transitional basis, as well as for any special projects that the Town staff is unequipped to handle. The cost to fund this option is projected to be \$457,547.00. This amount leaves \$42,453 in excess funds from the \$500,000 "cap" which could be applied towards reorganizing the Community Development Department, and/or updating the Town's Comprehensive Plan using Calvin-Giordano staff.

Option Four anticipates contracting with Calvin-Giordano for all Planning- and Zoning-related services, including the staffing of the Community Development Office per the attached proposal. This would result in a staffing level within the Planning & Zoning function of two-and-a-half positions. Calvin-Giordano would also be responsible for the oversight of the Code Enforcement and Building Inspection functions as well. The total cost of implementing this option is projected to be \$571,161.00. This figure includes \$17,500.00 to pay Calvin-Giordano for updating the Town's Comprehensive Plan (as a part undertaking Task I). It should be noted, however, that after the first year of the contract the Town's cost will decrease by \$50,000 (reflecting that portion of Calvin-Giordano's fees which are associated with Task I). This cost saving will be offset somewhat by an automatic 4% cost increase in Calvin-Giordano's fees. The final cost savings would thus in fact be \$39,200.

Of the above four options, Options One, Two and Three all carry a total cost that falls below the \$500,000 "cap" which was stipulated by the Town Commission. Only Option Four exceeds the \$500,000 limit. Option Four, however, is attractive in that it potentially promises to deliver the following benefits to the Town:

- · Greater flexibility in staffing, depending on the current workload of the office.
- A long-term reduction in personnel-related expenditures, attributed in part to a reduction in retirement and health care costs.
- Clearer lines of responsibility as a result of the Department staff (with the exception of Code Enforcement and Building Inspection) being employees of Calvin-Giordano.
- Additional resources especially in GIS functions being made available to the Community Development Department to meet customer needs.
- The opportunity to reorganize the Community Development Department, improve its filing system and streamline its office work processes.

Recommendation: In terms of seeing a relatively quick improvement in the overall functioning of the department, Option Four appears to be the best choice for the Town. Option Four also earmarks a portion of funding towards updating the Comp. Plan. This option does, however, exceed the \$500,000 "cap" stipulated by the Commission in previous budget discussions. Option Three would probably not produce results as dramatic or as quickly as Option Four, but it does have the advantage over the latter of being considerably less costly to implement. Under Option Three there would be sufficient flexibility (and monies) available to add additional staff support to the Department, if desired or needed (as recommended by Calvin-Giordano in their proposal). Option Three would be the next best choice after Option Four for the Town Commission to consider.

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